

PLANT: Japanese privet (*Ligustrum japonicum*) is an evergreen shrub with a spreading canopy, appearing as a single plant or a thicket.

IDENTIFICATION: Evergreen, single plant or thicket-forming shrub with spreading canopy to 35 feet tall, thick opposite leaves, both leaves and stems hairless. Leaves are evergreen and leathery, opposite, ovate, 2-4 in. long and 1-1.8 in. wide.

Clusters of showy white flowers in spring yield dangling green to purple fruit in summer to winter. Similar to Chinese privet, only larger with larger leaves. It also resembles redbtip.



ECOLOGY: It occurs on same habitats as Chinese privet, but generally not as abundant depending upon location. Widely planted as an ornamental and escaped. It invades both lowland and upland habitats. Spreads by abundant animal-dispersed seeds and colonizes by rootsprouts.

HERBICIDE CONTROL: Apply Garlon 4 as a 3% solution (12 ounces per 3-gal. mix) or Arsenal AC as a 1% solution (4 ounces per 3-gal. mix) in water with a surfactant to thoroughly wet all leaves in August through September. Apply a glyphosate herbicide as a 3% solution (12 ounces per 3-gal. mix) in water with a surfactant in March to June. For stems too tall for foliar sprays, apply a Garlon 4 as a 20% solution (2.5 quarts per 3-gal. mix) in commercially available basal oil, diesel fuel, or kerosene with a penetrant (check with herbicide distributor) to young bark as a basal spray from January to February or May to October. Cut large stems and treat stumps immediately after cutting with 10% solutions of Arsenal AC or Velpar L (1 quart per 3-gal. mix) in water with a surfactant (both can damage desirable trees with roots in treated zone). When safety to surrounding vegetation is desired, carefully treat stumps and cut stems with a glyphosate herbicide or Garlon 3A using 20% solutions (2.5 quarts per 3-gal. mix) in water with a surfactant. **WARNING:** Arsenal AC and Velpar L can damage plants with roots in the treated area. Always read and follow label directions carefully.

Photo and Text Credit: Nonnative Invasive Plants of Southern Forests, James Miller, 2004, www.forestryimages.org



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